

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The independent claims are 1, 12, 13, and 16 with claim 3 being a multiple dependent claim. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14, and 15 have been amended.

These proposed claim amendments are directed to the matters of form and/or to clarify certain claim limitations. No new matter is added by the proposed claim amendments.

1. (currently amended) A first aid strip comprising:

 a substrate layer comprising a first adhesive substrate surface opposed by a second substrate surface;

 a gauze layer comprising a first gauze surface opposed by a second non-adherent gauze surface;

 wherein said first gauze surface is associated with said first adhesive substrate surface;

 a gauze spacer comprising a first spacer surface opposed by a second non-adherent spacer surface, wherein said first and second surfaces form a parameter around a inter window thereby defining a spacer void; and

 wherein said first spacer surface is associated with said second non-adherent gauze surface so that said spacer void defines at least part of a pocket.

2. (currently amended) A first aid strip as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~ further comprising a plurality of gauze spacers stacked on top of one another so that ~~each spacer void is the spacer voids are~~ in substantial alignment with each other thereby forming a spacer stack defining a spacer stack void wherein one end of said spacer stack is associated with said second non-adherent spacer surface so that said spacer stack void is in substantial alignment with

said pocket thereby defining a deeper pocket and with the opposite end of said spacer stack defining a non-adherent spacer stack surface.

3. (currently amended) A first aid strip as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1 or 2, wherein said pocket has a depth of about 1.5 mm to about 2.0 mm.

4. (previously presented) A first aid strip as in claim 1, further comprising a ring disposed and sealed between said first gauze surface and said first adhesive substrate surface.

5. (currently amended) A first aid strip as ~~claimed~~ in claim 4, wherein said ring is composed of an inert material.

6. (currently amended) A first aid strip as ~~claimed~~ in claim 5, wherein said ring is made of at least one material from the group of materials consisting of: cork; latex; and rubber.

7. (currently amended) A first aid strip as ~~claimed~~ in claim 4, wherein the ring is about 2.0 to 2.5 mm wide and about 2.0 to 2.5 mm deep.

8. (currently amended) A first aid strip as ~~claimed~~ in claim 1, wherein the length of said gauze layer is about one-third the length of said substrate layer.

9. (currently amended) The first aid strip as ~~claimed~~ in claim 8, wherein the width of said gauze layer is substantially the same width as the substrate layer.

10. (currently amended) The first aid strip as ~~per~~ in claim 9, wherein at least one of said substrate layer and said gauze lawyer further define a bulge in substantial alignment with said spacer void.

11. (currently amended) The first aid strip as in claim 10, wherein ~~is~~ said bulge is about 2.0 mm to 2.5 mm deep.

12. (currently amended) A method of manufacture of a first aid strip, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a gauze base pad comprising a first base pad surface and an opposing second base pad surface;
- (b) providing a plurality of gauze layers;
- (c) removing at least part of the middle of each of said plurality of gauze layers to form a plurality of gauze spacers so that each spacer defines an spacer void in the approximate center of each respective spacer;
- (d) associating at least one surface of each of said plurality of gauze spacers to the surface of another gauze spacer to form a gauze spacer stack wherein the spacer voids ~~for each individual gauze spacer~~ are in substantial alignment thereby defining a spacer stack void;
- (e) associating one ~~end~~ surface of said spacer stack with said second base pad surface; and
- (f) providing a substrate comprising a first adhesive surface opposed by a second surface wherein the first adhesive surface is associated with said first base pad surface.

13. (previously presented) A method for the manufacture of first aid strip, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a gauze pad comprising a first gauze pad surface and an opposing second gauze pad surface;
- (b) providing a gauze ring having a first ring surface and an opposing second ring surface wherein said ring defines a void in the approximate center of said ring;
- (c) associating said first ring surface to said first gauze pad surface thereby defining a gauze pad pocket;

(d) providing a substrate comprising a first substrate surface and a second adhesive substrate surface; and

(e) associating said second adhesive substrate surface with one of (i) said second gauze pad surface and (ii) said second ring surface.

14. (currently amended) A method of manufacture of a first aid strip ~~A method as claimed~~ in claim 13, wherein the outer border of the gauze ring is flush with the margins of gauze pad and wherein the gauze ring defines a rectangle.

15. (currently amended) ~~A Method according claim~~ A method of manufacture of a first aid strip as in claim 13, wherein the outer border of said gauze ring defines a distance that is about the same as the distance defined by the outer edge of said gauze pad.

16. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound, said bandage comprising:
a substrate comprising a first adhesive substrate surface and an opposing second substrate surface;

a spacer comprising a first spacer surface and a second spacer surface wherein said spacer surfaces form a spacer border surrounding a spacer void in the approximate center of said spacer and wherein said first spacer surface is associated with said first adhesive substrate surface; and

a pad comprising a first pad surface and a second pad surface wherein said first pad surface is associated with said second space surface and said first adhesive substrate surface thereby sealing said spacer between said substrate and said pad.

17. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said substrate, said pad, and said spacer each define a rectangle and wherein:

(a) the length of said substrate is about three times the length of said pad,

- (b) the width of said substrate is wider than the width of said pad,
- (c) the length of said spacer is about the same as the length of said pad, and
- (d) the width of said spacer is about the same as the width of said pad.

18. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said substrate, said pad, and said spacer each define a rectangle and wherein:

- (a) the length of said substrate is about three times the length of said pad ;
- (b) the length of said spacer is about the same length as said pad;
- (c) the width of said spacer is about the same as the width of said substrate; and

wherein the width of said pad is one of (i) substantially equal to the width of said substrate, and (ii) wider than the width of said substrate.

19. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said spacer is composed of inert material.

20. (previously presented) A bandage for covering a wound as in claim 16, wherein said spacer void defines a pouch that is about 2.0 mm to about 2.5 mm wide and about 2.0mm to about 2.5 mm deep.